posed to do about it, he replied that the Government accepted the amendment, implying by his manner, defiantly distraught, that a less resolute, less high-principled Premier would have behaved differently, but not he.

This performance led Mr. Churchill to recall how, when he was a child his nurse had taken him to a fair, where, among other attractions, there was announced the spectacle of a Boneless Wonder. He had pleaded with his nurse to be allowed to sec this Wonder, but she had refused. Another time, when he was a bigger boy, she had said, he should see the Wonder, but not then. The other time had never come. He had waited and waited, but in vain; and now after sixty years his patience was rewarded. His eyes rested at last (pointing to the Prime Minister) on the Boneless Wonder. When the National Government was formed and Mr. Churchill found himself excluded from it, he ruefully recalled this quip, but for which he would probably have been included in the Cabinet, and have used his eloquence and debating skill, for instance, to promote instead of impede an All-India Federal Constitution. That a politician should make so heavy a sacrifice for a joke must count to him for virtue. Does Sir John Simon joke? Does Mr. Hore* Belisha?

These empty debates, these mutilated measures, though few knew it at the time, marked the end for many a long year, perhaps for ever, of party politics as then understood. No domestic issue was going again in the lifetimes of many there present to arouse the slightest interest in Parliament or outside. Free Trade

and Protection, that once burning controversy which Mr. Lloyd George tried piteously to revive, was to be settled without causing any perturbation; the Pope might be put on or taken off the rates without anyone minding, and the School Age was to be a matter of indifference to all. Deep clouds were massing,

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were left a free hand, to carry on these negotiations, with the pledge definitely given that, when the substance of a real agreement has been arrived at, when die outstanding problems. , .*